

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 16, 23 and 30 and have added claims 33-36 to more clearly claim the invention. No new matter has been entered. Accordingly, claims 1-36 are now pending in this application. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment, which is captioned "Marked-Up Version Showing Changes Made By the Present Amendment (37 C.F.R. § 1.121)." In light of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are most respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11, 23 and 26-32 as being obvious over British Patent 389,611 to Shimizu ("the Shimizu patent"), and claims 12-22 and 24-25 as being unpatentable over the Shimizu patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,278,546 to Dubin ("the Dubin patent") or U.S. Patent No. 3,552,822 to Altman ("the Altman patent"). In light of Applicants' amendments to claims 1, 5, 16, 23 and 30, the Examiner's rejections are now moot. Applicants' amendment are supported by the specification. *See, e.g.*, Specification at pp. 19, 30, 33. Applicants' novel screen has an active surface diffuser adjacent to an opaque layer, and a substrate covering the diffuser and opaque layer. This allows better contrast and controlled directivity. *See, e.g.*, Specification at p. 10. The Shimizu patent, the Dubin patent, and the Altman patent do not teach or suggest this novel configuration. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

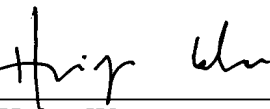


Conclusion

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable action. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below if he believes that the progress of this application could be advanced. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: April 21, 2003

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Appl. No. 10/018,384

**MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE
BY THE PRESENT AMENDMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.121)**

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 5, 16, 23, and 30 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A screen, comprising a support with focusing elements, said support being adjacent to a diffuser having an active surface, said diffuser being adjacent to an opaque layer with apertures to allow light focused by said focusing elements to pass, [said apertures making up less than 10% of the surface area of the opaque layer] and a substrate adjacent to said diffuser and opaque layer.

5. (Amended) The screen according to claim 1, wherein the apertures make up less than 5% of the [total] surface area of the opaque layer.

16. (Amended) The screen according to claim 1, wherein [it further comprises a diffuser adjacent to the opaque layer, preferably] the diffuser is a diffuser controlling directivity.

23. (Amended) A method for producing a screen, comprising the steps of:

- providing a support having a plurality of focusing elements, and a layered material adjacent to the points of focus of said focusing elements;
- irradiating said material through said focusing elements;
- forming, using the irradiated material, an opaque layer having apertures making up less than 10% of the surface area of said opaque layer;
- bonding a diffuser onto said support or said opaque layer; and
- covering said diffuser and said opaque layer with a substrate.



30. (Amended) [The] A method [according to claim 23] for producing a screen,

[wherein it further comprises] comprising the steps of:

- providing a support having a plurality of focusing elements, and a layered material adjacent to the points of focus of said focusing elements;
- irradiating said material through said focusing elements;
- forming, using the irradiated material, an opaque layer having apertures making up less than 10% of the surface area of said opaque layer;
- forming, on said support or said opaque layer, a spacer layer with a thickness of from a few microns up to several tens of microns;
- forming apertures in said spacer layer, in correspondence with the focal points of said focusing elements;
- bonding a diffuser onto said spacer layer, an active face of said diffuser being directed towards said spacer layer; and
- covering said diffuser and said opaque layer with a substrate.

Claims 33-36 has been added as follows:

33. (New) The screen according to claim 1, wherein the apertures make up less than 10% of the surface area of the opaque layer.

34. (New) The screen according to claim 1, wherein the support is in contact with the diffuser, the diffuser is in contact with the opaque layer, and the opaque layer is in contact with the substrate.



35. (New) The screen according to claim 1, wherein the support is in contact with the opaque layer, the opaque layer is adjacent to the diffuser, and the diffuser is in contact with the substrate.

36. (New) The screen according to claim 35, wherein a spacer layer is adjacent to the opaque layer.